

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 /010 W
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P R 061112Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3455
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS LAGOS 2881

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, NI
SUBJ: WORKING ASSIGNMENTS IN OIL INDUSTRY FOR STUDENT IVS

REF: STATE 059151

1. SUBJECT PROJECT IS PART OF EMBASSY'S PROGRAM IN OIL/GAS SECTOR AND WAS SHAPED ABOUT YEAR AGO BY EMBASSY, USIS, AND AMCONSUL IBADAN IN COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN. IDEA IS TO PROVIDE TRAVEL GRANTS TO STUDENTS WITH AMERICAN COMPANY SPONSORS PICKING UP OTHER EXPENSES. THE NIGERIANS WOULD BE IMMERSED IN ACTUAL WORK SITUATIONS LIKE AMERICAN PETROLEUM STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUMMER JOBS. UNIBADAN DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY ANXIOUS TO HAVE STUDENTS GAIN ACTUAL OILFIELD EXPERIENCE TO COMPLEMENT CLASSROOM. AS WITH AMERICANS, STUDENTS MANY TIMES HAVE ONE-SIDED VIEW OF PROFESSION-THUS NEED TO "GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY."

2. FROM US POINT OF VIEW, PROGRAM DESIGNED AS MODEST DEMONSTRATION OUR INTEREST AND ABILITY RESPOND TO NIGERIAN REQUESTS FOR PRACTICAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN OIL AND GAS TECHNOLOGY. WE ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THIS SMALL EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN USG, US INDUSTRY, AND NIGERIAN INSTITUTIONS WOULD LEAD TO LARGE AND LASTING INDUSTRY EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH FMG AND LITTLE OR NO USG FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION.

3. PROGRAM CONTAINED IN CU PORTION CPP UNDER HEADING "OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS...ENERGY RESOURCES," LAST LINE, "THREE GRANTEE
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UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN GEOLOGY DEPT."

4. UNIBADAN HAS NOMINATED THREE UNDERGRADUATES, VIZ. A. EZEDEMBAH, B. NZEKWU, AND. OMOLE. BIODATA SENT BY AIR.

5. PRIOR RECEIPT REFTTEL, EMBASSY BROUGHT PROGRAM TO ATTENTION ALL LOCALLY REPRESENTED AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES. COMPANIES WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY BECOME SPONSORS NOT RPT NOT AS FAVOR TO USG BUT SOLELY ON BASIS SELF-INTEREST. EMBASSY HOPED TWO COMPANIES WOULD EXPRESS INTEREST, BUT, AFTER PROTRACTED DELIBERATIONS, ONLY PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY COMMITTED ITSELF TO ONE STUDENT (EZEDEMBAH).

6. PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CONSULTANTS WORLDWIDE, INC. (PEXCON), OF DALLAS, TEXAS, LONG AGO AGREED PLACE AS MANY AS THREE OF THE STUDENTS. EMBASSY THEREFORE NOW IN POSITION ACCEPT PEXCON'S OFFER PLACE TWO RPT TWO STUDENTS (NZEKWU AND OMOLE). MARCH 19 LETTER FROM PEXCON SAYS NIGERIAN STUDENTS CAN BE PLACED IN ONE OF PEXCON'S OWN INTERPRETATION OFFICES OR ON ONE OF ITS SEISMIC FIELD CRES.

7. REGARDING VISAS, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS J-1 VISITOR CAN RECEIVE COMPENSATION IF SPONSORS REGISTERED AS EXCHANGE SPONSORS WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAM NUMBER. REGRET WE UNABLE SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO DEPARTMENT BEFORE NOW BUT HOPE IT CAN BE ARRANGED FOR COMING SUMMER ALONG FOREGOING LINES. ASSUME PHILLIPS AND PEXCON CAN BE DESUGBATED SPONSORS. MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER CALL PROGRAM INTERNSHIP RATHER THAN SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS THAT THE STUDENTS' EXPENSES BE COVERED BY COMPANIES THEY ASSIGNED TO, LEAVING ONLY INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC US TRAVEL TO/FROM SUMMER LOCATION (SOME-WHERE IN 48 STATES) TO BE FUNDED FROM CU ALLOCATION. IN ALL CONTACTS WITH POTENTIAL SPNSORS, EMBASSY HAS EMPHASIZED THAT LODGING, WORK ASSIGNMENTS, AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ARE TO BE SETTLED DIRECTLY WITH UNIBADAN AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS. STUDENTS COULD BEGIN IN JULY (NOT NECESSARILY AT SAME TIME) WITH PROGRAMS LASTING ABOUT THREE MONTHS. ONE OR TWO WEEK OBSERVATION TOUR AT END ALSO INCLUDED.

8. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS AND FORESEES NO INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTACTING PHILLIPS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PEXCON ABOUT THEIR DESIGNATION AS EXCHANGE SPONSORS AND PLACEMENT OF EACH STUDENT. CONTACTS ARE (1) MR. B.G. MOORE, INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY, BARTLESVILLE, OKLAHOMA 75003, PHONE (918) 661-6600 AND (2) MR. RAY L. SENGBUSH, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, PEXCON, 1341 WEST MOCKINGBIRD LANE, DALLAS, TEXAS 75247, PHONE (214) 630-2240.

9. PLEASE ADVISE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAGOS02881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740078-0596
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740461/aaaacdk.s.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 059151
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORKING ASSIGNMENTS IN OIL INDUSTRY FOR STUDENT IVS
TAGS: OEXC, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005